

## FIRST HOTEL TO OPEN AT MALL OF AMERICA CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON RADISSON BLU

The Radisson Blu hotel at the Mall of America will be the first and only hotel to be physically connected to the Mall.

The City is working with Carlson Hotels, a Minnetonka-based company, and Minneapolis-based Mortenson Construction on the \$135 million project. It is estimated that the project will create 250 full-time construction jobs and 240 permanent hotel jobs in Bloomington.

The project is funded through \$40 million in Bloomington Port Authority-issued tax-free bonds, \$40 million in private, taxable bonds and \$40 million in private equity from Carlson and Mortenson. Revenue from the hotel will be used to repay the money. The City and taxpayers are not liable for the bonds.

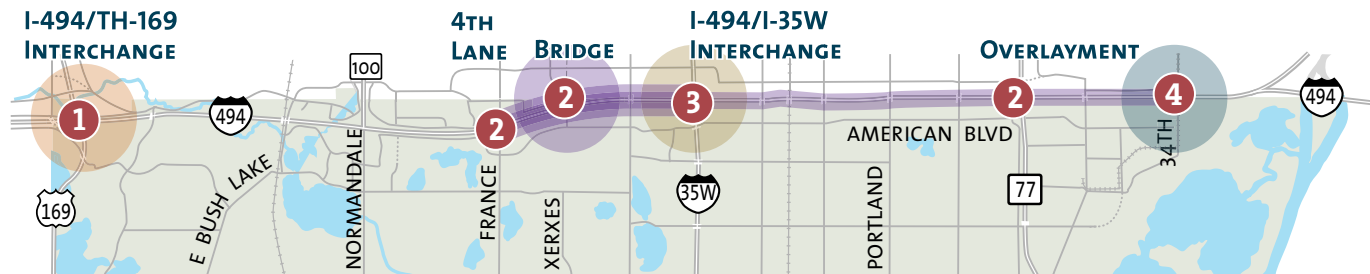
A three-level public parking garage will be financed with \$15 million in tax increment financing paid with the Mall's property taxes. The parking structure will be an extension of the existing parking lot. Construction of the hotel is expected to be completed by late 2012.



The 500-room, 13-story hotel will be located on the Mall's south side between Macy's and Bloomingdales.

## THE FUTURE OF I-494

### PAVING THE WAY FOR A BETTER COMMUTE



The I-494 corridor has served as the gateway to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, the Mall of America and countless businesses for decades. Nearly 20 percent of the population and 21 percent of jobs in the metropolitan area are located on the corridor. The I-494/I-694 system also provides access to the rest of the metro area through its connections to other major highways.

Pavement on the corridor has reached the end of its lifespan and needs upgrading. Several bridges need deck or total structure replacement. Growing travel demand along I-494 is anticipated to further increase traffic congestion and pavement stress. For these reasons and others, the City of Bloomington

is working with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), and other agencies and partners to improve and reconfigure the most heavily used portions of I-494.

Because the City cannot rely on future funding to rebuild the I-494 corridor, many "mega projects" have been tabled in favor of lower-cost and higher-benefit plans that can be completed in phases.

#### 1 I-494/TH-169 interchange

The MnDOT-approved plan will relieve congestion at the TH-169 and I-494 interchange. A project team lead by C.S. McCrossan and Edward Kraemer and Sons will reconfigure the crossing. Traffic signals on TH-169 will be removed and the interchange will be rebuilt using six freeway-to-freeway ramps.

#### 2 I-494 project consolidation

Plans are being considered for combining the Xerxes bridge reconstruction with a pavement overlay of I-494 from France to 34th Avenues. The Xerxes bridge will be completely rebuilt to accommodate future improvements to I-494. In addition, possible construction of a fourth lane westbound from I-35W to France Avenue could partially accommodate the heavy traffic at the intersection of I-494 and I-35W.

#### 3 I-494/I-35W interchange

The I-494/I-35W interchange is one of the most heavily traveled in the entire region – handling 500,000 vehicles daily.

To ease congestion and increase safety, the City is working with MnDOT on the construction of an innovative turbine interchange – a series of circular ramps that can be constructed in phases.

The turbine design is projected to be completed for \$240 million – approximately \$30 million less than estimates for a different design. The plan may also include a bus rapid transit station in the I-35W corridor that will increase transit options.

Millions of people rely on the transportation systems in the metropolitan area for safe and convenient travel. The City will continue to work with MnDOT and other agencies to mitigate traffic congestion along I-494 and develop the best design possible given present funding restraints.

#### 4 34th Avenue interchange

One of the key interchanges for future development is the 34th Avenue/I-494 interchange. A project to be done in phases, improvements for Phase I include constructing a Diverging Diamond Interchange that would eliminate crossing traffic to access I-494 and minimize left turn signals. Phase I construction could begin as early as 2014; other phases will be driven by traffic needs.

For more information, contact Deputy Director of Public Works Jim Gates at 952-563-8730 or [jgates@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:jgates@ci.bloomington.mn.us).

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## BE WARY OF SOLICITORS WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU OPEN YOUR DOOR

Bloomington City Code requires all solicitors to carry a City-issued license and identification card when soliciting door to door. Solicitors must not operate between 8 p.m. and 9 a.m., enter a property with a posted "No Solicitation" or similar sign, or use aggressive sales tactics. Nonprofit, religious and political organizations are exempt from licensing, but must abide by hours and have proper identification.

For more information, call Licensing at 952-563-8728.

**WEBSITE KEYWORD: SOLICITORS.**



## SAVE THE DATE 2011 CITY ELECTION ACTIVITIES

The offices of Mayor, Councilmember-at-Large, Councilmember District III and Councilmember District IV will be up for election this year. (An appointment will be made to fill the open District III seat for the remainder of 2011.) The Primary Election, if it is required, will be held **Tuesday, August 9**. The General Election is **Tuesday, November 8**.

The candidate filing period is May 17 - 31. Candidate filing packets are available at the City Clerk's Office. For more information, call 952-563-8729.

**WEBSITE KEYWORD: VOTING.**

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